GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:268
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Cochlear Implant Project
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up Cochlear Implant Project in the country and if so, the details and the status of the project;

(b) whether the Government has appointed a nodal agency for identifying the beneficiaries under the said project and if so, the details thereof along with the number of beneficiaries identified so far, region and State-wise;

(c) the number of persons who underwent Cochlear implant surgery under the said project in the country including Mumbai;

(d) whether the Government proposes to expand the said project so that maximum number of deaf persons across the country are able to avail benefit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the proposed coverage under the said project in terms of area/region and number of beneficiaries, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.268 asked by Dr. Kirit Somaiya, MP regarding 'Cochlear Implant Project' for answer on 21.03.2017.
(a) Yes, Sir. As per revised Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme) Cochlear Implants are provided as a component under the Scheme. Cochlear Implant is a modern technology to help young children who have severe to profound deafness in both ears. Because of hearing impairment they are not able to speak. Cochlear Implant provides such children to hear normally in one ear and with post surgical speech rehabilitation therapy they are able to speak also.

Cochlear Implant has been included in the ADIP Scheme for the children up to 5 years having severe to profound sensori-neural hearing loss in both ears since birth (congenital). The age has been extended for post-lingual hearing loss children (acquired hearing loss at the age of 4-7 years) up to 12 years.

The ADIP Scheme provides fund up to Rs.6.00 lakh per child. The quantum of assistance includes cost of cochlear implant, cost of surgery, cost of mapping and cost of post-operative rehabilitation. No funds are provided to beneficiaries or their parents, directly.

Cochlear Implants are procured by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India Ltd. (ALIMCO), Kanpur, a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The Cochlear Implants are delivered by ALIMCO to Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) [AYJNISHD], Mumbai who distributes to empanelled hospitals for Cochlear Implant surgery all over the country.

So far 172 (both Government and Private) Hospitals across India have been empanelled by the Government for conducting Cochlear Implant surgeries under ADIP Scheme. For post-operative rehabilitation, AYJNISHD has empanelled Professionals in the area of Audiology, Speech Language Pathology and Special Education of children with hearing impairment. 166 Professionals have been empanelled, apart from the 172 Hospitals empanelled for Cochlear Implant surgery.

For the ease of monitoring the project, five zones have been formed viz. North, West-Central, East, North-East and South for

maintaining Regional balance. Zonal Coordinators have also been appointed for monitoring of Cochlear Implant surgeries carried out and post-operative rehabilitation.

For Cochlear Implant, funds to the tune of Rs.33.13 crore have been released under ADIP Scheme i.e. Rs.13.13 crore during 2014-15, Rs.9.55 crore during 2015-16 & Rs.10.45 crore during 2016-17 (as on 15.03.2017).

(b) The Government has appointed Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Mumbai as the Nodal Agency for identifying the beneficiaries under the Cochlear Implant. A total 2105 applications have been received as on 15.03.2017 for Cochlear Implant surgery since launch of the Cochlear Implant in the country on 03.12.2014. For Cochlear Implant, parents can apply online (www.adipcochlearimplant.in) for Cochlear Implant surgery of their eligible children. Offline applications are also accepted by AYJNISHD. A Screening Committee is in place for identifying the beneficiaries.

(c) 653 cochlear implant surgeries [570 under ADIP + 83 under Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme (CSR)] have been conducted across the country as on 15.03.2017. State-wise number of beneficiaries who underwent Cochlear Implant surgery under ADIP Scheme and those beneficiaries who underwent Cochlear Implant surgery under CSR is at Annexure-I and Annexure-II, respectively. Number of children who underwent Cochlear Implant surgery in Mumbai as on 15.03.2017 is 48 [37 under the ADIP Scheme and 11 under (CSR)]. 553 beneficiaries whose documents are complete in all respects have been identified and waitlisted. Zone/State-wise details thereof are at Annexure−III. 899 cases are not eligible or their documents are not complete.

(d & e) ADIP Scheme provides for cochlear implant. The Government is actively involved in expanding the Cochlear Implant by means of providing more Grants under the ADIP. On periodical review, more Hospitals are empanelled so as to cover un-served parts of the country so that maximum number of persons with hearing impairment can avail the facility. Earlier there were 140 hospitals empanelled and the figure has now gone to 172 with the addition of 32 hospitals, recently. The Cochlear Implant surgery program is further extended by associating more Corporate Sectors for sponsorships.

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